

# Eye on the World

## April 10–11, 2010

*This collection of short news items is from the "Eye on the World" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of April 10–11, 2010.*

### Compiled by Jeanine Case

The *RIA Novosti* newswire at en.rian.ru ran an article titled "Russia's Gazprom Begins Construction of Nord Stream Pipeline." The article was posted on April 6, 2010.

According to the report: "Russian energy giant Gazprom has started the construction of the Nord Stream pipeline designed to pump Russian natural gas to Europe under the Baltic Sea, a company spokesman has said, quoting Gazprom head Alexei Miller."

The article stated that the pipeline will bypass certain transit countries such as Belarus and Ukraine. These countries have been blamed for interruptions in service to Western Europe in the past.

The two pipelines will have the capacity to carry 27.5 billion cubic meters of gas a year and will stretch from "the Russian city of Vyborg near the Finnish border to Greifswald on the coast of Germany."

The line will in time carry 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year.



WorldNetDaily.com ran an article titled "Does Your Faith Free You From Forced Obamacare? Why Amish Won't Have to Purchase Insurance, but Muslims Will Cry Foul."

The article was posted on Wednesday April 6, 2010. It was written by Drew Zahn.

"The recent health-care reform legislation carries a controversial mandate that all Americans obtain health insurance, but careful study of the passed law reveals there are some groups—the Amish, for example—that can obtain an exemption."

However, most religious people, conscientious objectors, devout Muslims and others with political objections will not be excused from the requirement.

The fine print does include a clause that could be a way out if people choose

to take it.

"Section 1501 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act adds a new chapter to the Internal Revenue Code mandating all 'applicable' individuals either obtain health insurance that meets the bill's 'minimum essential coverage' standards or pay a penalty on tax day."

According to the article, members of American Indian tribes and the extreme poor are excused from paying the penalty even though they are not exempt from the requirement. Foreign nationals, illegal aliens and incarcerated prisoners are an example of those who are considered exempt.

"But section 1501 also carries a pair of 'religious exemptions' that will allow the Amish to escape the mandate but require Muslims and other religious objectors to get creative."

The law takes into account those whose beliefs bar "the 'acceptance of the benefits of any private or public insurance.' "

Muslim law reads differently, according to the article. It is based on not the fact that Muslims feel it is like charging interest and gambling on the future. This is in regards to conventional insurance.

"The health-care reform bill's language, however, specifically states that for a sect to qualify for the religious exemption it must fall within the definitions of section 1402(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. That section requires a sect to have been in constant existence since at least Dec. 31, 1950, and requires the sect to reject not only insurance but also have sworn off receiving all benefits from the U.S. Social Security System."

The Muslims do accept Social Security in most cases.



On Wednesday, April 7, 2010 WorldNetDaily.com ran an article titled "Mississippi to Vote on 'Personhood' Definition: Initiative Challenges Abortion by Vesting Rights in Pre-Born."

"The loophole created by Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackman's opinion on the 'right' in the U.S. Constitution to abortion is being targeted in another state: Mississippi.

"Voters there will have on their ballot a proposal that would define the unborn as a person, with all the rights granted under the U.S. Constitution and state law."

The measure was promoted by Personhood Mississippi. It was confirmed as qualified by Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann. It will be on the 2011 election ballot.

Supporters collected 130,000 signatures. All they needed was 89,285 signa-

tures to have the issue included on the ballot.

"The amendment reads: 'The term "person" or "persons" shall include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof.' "



An article titled "Netanyahu Cancels Trip to Obama's Nuclear Summit," posted by Reuters on April 9, 2010, written by Douglas Hamilton, reported the Israeli prime minister's cancellation of a trip to Washington.

"Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has canceled a planned trip to Washington next week for President Barack Obama's 47-country nuclear security summit conference.

"He made the decision after learning Egypt and Turkey intended to raise the issue of Israel's presumed nuclear arsenal at the conference, a senior government official said on Friday."

The article continued: "Foreign analysts believe Israel has been a secret nuclear power for the past 40 years and may possess a sizable arsenal.

"Based on estimates of the plutonium production capacity of its Dimona reactor in the southern Negev desert, experts say it could have 100 to 200 advanced nuclear explosive devices."



An April 8, 2010, Reuters article by Hashem Kalantari ran under the headline "Iran Will Not Beg to Avoid sanctions: Ahmadinejad."

"Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who Wednesday called President Barack Obama a nuclear-armed 'cowboy,' said Iran would 'try to make an opportunity out of sanctions' rather than change its stance to avoid them."

The article continued: "While dismissing the sanctions threat, Iran has also warned against any military steps against its nuclear program.

"After several warnings that it would hit back at Israel if attacked from there, Iran's military chief said Thursday he would target U.S. forces stationed in the Middle East if Washington attacked."



An Associated Press article at Yahoo.com was titled "Uruguay's New Leader Strengthens Ties With Chavez." It was posted April 7, 2010.

Datelined Caracas, Venezuela, it began: "Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez offered Wednesday to help Uruguay expand a refinery and supply it with crude oil.

"Chavez and visiting Uruguayan President Jose Mujica are expected to sign accords pledging to deeper trade and energy ties between the two South American nations."



From France24.com, posted April 7, 2010: "N. Korea leader sets world fashion trend: Pyongyang."

Following is the complete text of the article:

"The trademark suit sported by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il is now in fashion worldwide thanks to his greatness, Pyongyang's official website said Wednesday.



Kim Jong-Il

"Uriminzokkiri, quoting an article in communist party newspaper *Rodong Sinmun*, said the modest-looking suits have gripped people's imagination and become a global vogue.

" 'The reason is that the august image of the Great General, who is always wearing the modest suit while working, leaves a deep impression on people's mind in the world,' it said.

" 'To sum it up, that is because his image as a great man is so outstanding.'

"The article quoted an unidentified French fashion expert as saying world fashion follows Kim Jong-Il's style.

" 'Kim Jong-Il mode which is now spreading expeditiously worldwide is something unprecedented in the world's history,' the stylist was quoted as saying.

"The suits consist of an overall-style zipped-up tunic and matching trousers, usually in khaki or bluish-gray.

"The 68-year-old leader wears them even when receiving foreign dignitaries.

"During his outside 'field guidance' trips in winter, he also dons a shapeless anorak and fur hat.

"Kim and his deceased father, Kim Il-Sung, are at the heart of a personality cult that borders on religion, with near-magical powers ascribed to the younger Kim.

"Rainbows supposedly appeared over sacred Mount Paekdu where Kim Jong-Il was allegedly born, and he is said once to have scored 11 holes-in-one in a single round of golf."